GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:224
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2000
SAFETY MEASURES IN COAL MINES
NEDURUMALLI JANARDHANA REDDY;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India Limited(CIL) have introduced scientific methods to prevent causalities in the mining sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the fatality rate in coal mines has come down during the last three years and current year;

(d) whether the implementation of safety measures has not been taken due to lack of coordination between CIL and DGMS; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement referred to in parts (a) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 224 for 5.12.2000 regarding Safety Measures in Coal Mines.

Coal India has introduced several systems for bringing down the accident rate in its coal mines which includes improvement in support system of underground mines, reduction in exposure of men to risk by mechanisation and increasing the share of opencast mining etc.

Fatality rates in coal mines are adjudged on the basis of fatality rate per million tonne of production and fatality rate per three (3) lakh manshift deployed. On both these counts the fatality rate has drastically reduced after the formation of Coal India Ltd., and is still continuing its downward trend. In 1975 fatality rate per million tonne production was 2.62 which is now 0.43, 0.40, 0.39 and 0.36 in the years 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000(upto October) respectively. Similarly, fatality rate per three (3) lakh manshift deployed stood at 0.52 in 1975 which has now come down to 0.25 and 0.24 in the year 1997 and 1998/99/2000(upto October).

There is no lack of co-ordination between Directorate Generalof Mines Safety (DGMS) and Coal India Limited on safety matters. The safety norms/rules formulated by DGMS areimplemented in Coal India Limited mines.Safety Board meetings at Coal India are held twice in a year which have representation from DGMS.Tripartite meetings between management, DGMS and Trade Union representatives are held twice in a year at subsidiary Company level and once in a year at Colliery/Unit level. Similarly, Standing Committee on Safety Chaired by Minister Incharge (Coal) are held twice ayear, in the Ministry of Coal, which is represented by Director General of Mines Safety and Ministry of Labour officials. As such, there is no lack of coordination between Coal India and DGMS in safety matters.